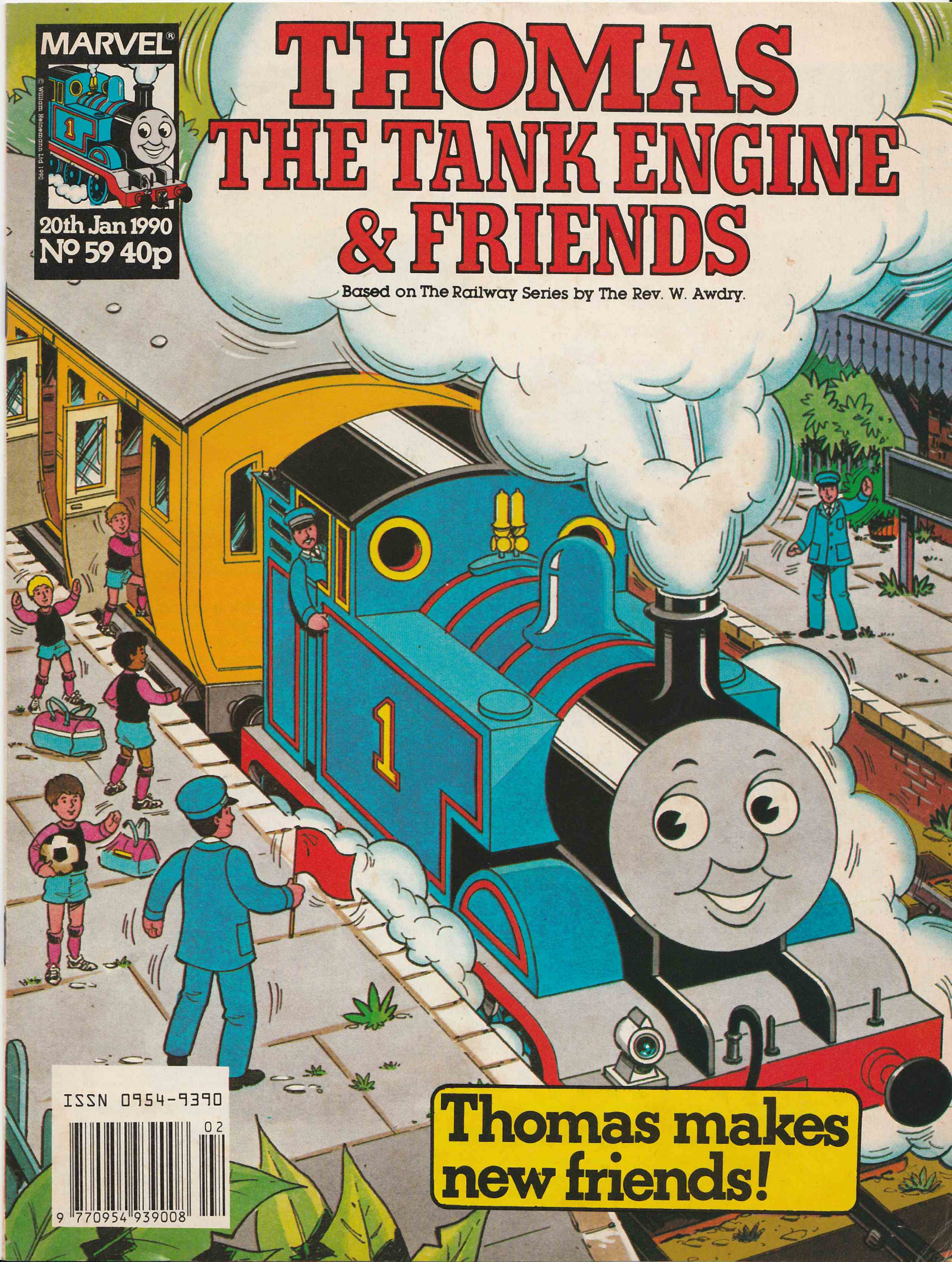

ISSN 0954-9390
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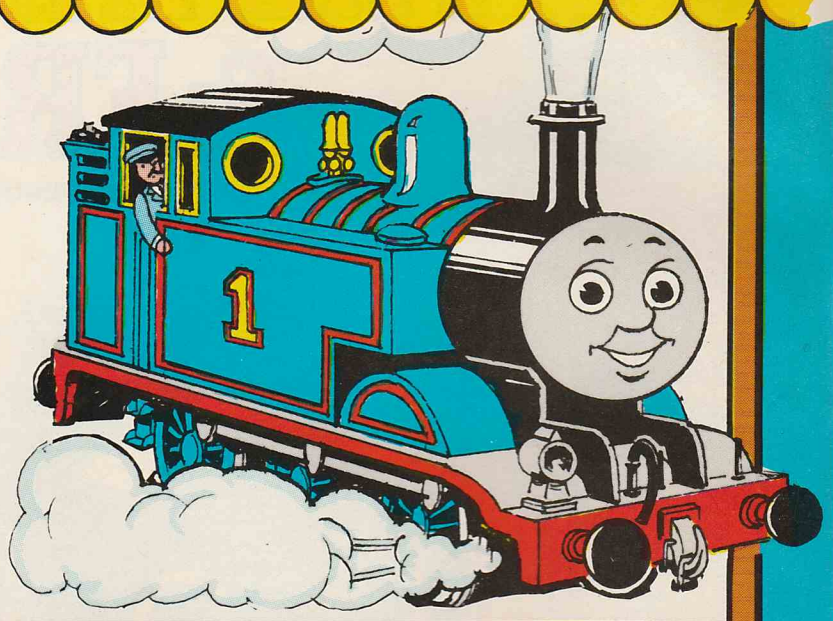
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! A young boy has accidentally fallen into the quarry on the Island of Sodor. He must be rescued! So Edward and Harold are sent off to help! Then, in our second story, Henry has overheard the Fat Controller saying that he is going to sell the railway! Oh no, now we must be saved too! Peep!



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MEMBERSHIP CARDS!

There is another way of joining the **Thomas Club** without taking out a year's subscription. Just collect 3 tokens like the one on the bottom of this page. Send one yellow, one red and one green token, together with a stamped addressed envelope, to:

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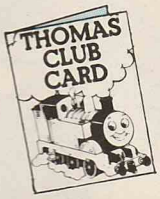

NEW STAR LETTER PRIZES!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

How would you like to own one of these splendid **Thomas the Tank** remote control toys from *ERTL (UK) Ltd?* Well, here is your chance, because starting in this very issue and continuing for the next eleven, we will be giving away one of these splendid prizes to the sender of any letter that is chosen and printed as our **STAR LETTER!** So if you have any questions or even an amusing story for the Fat Controller, send them in for the chance to win a super prize!

★★★★★★★★★★

ERTL

In our next issue: Henry makes some new friends in the shed!

THOMAS TOKEN

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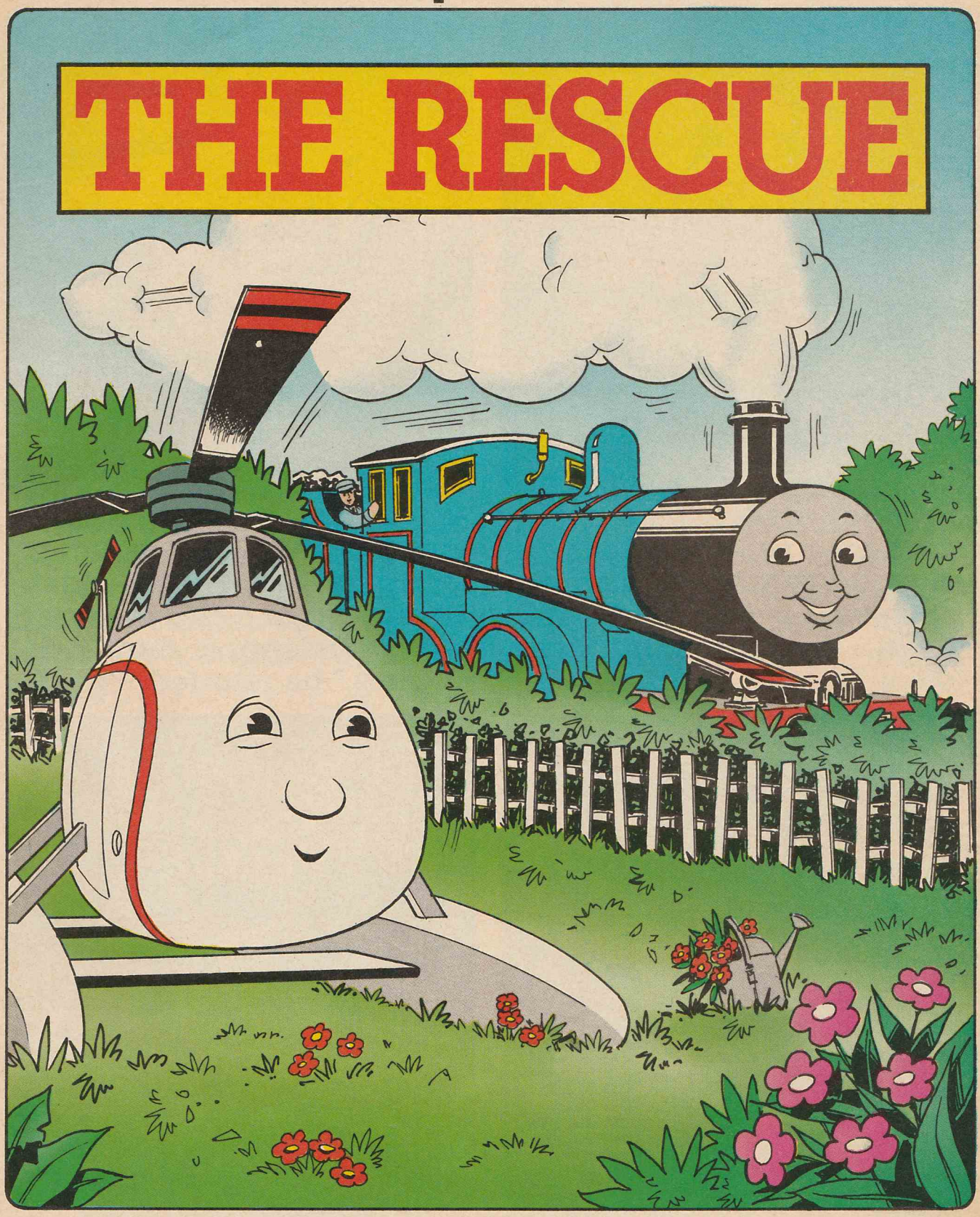
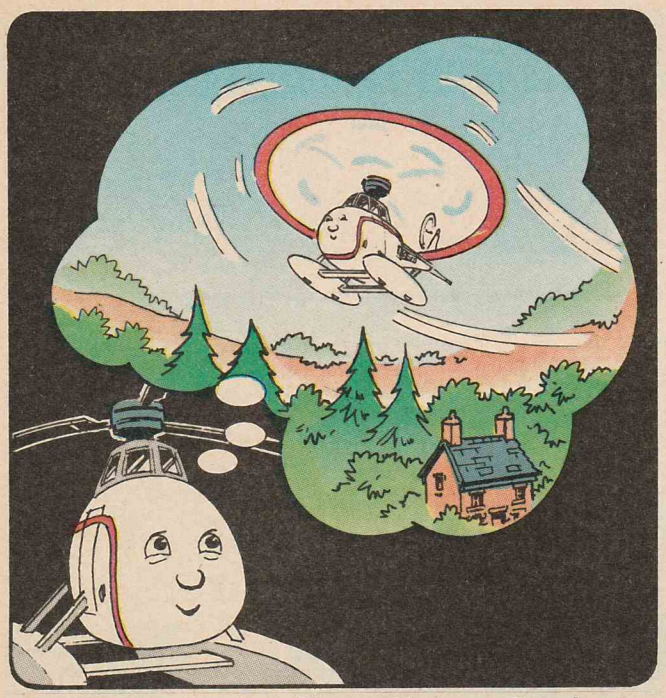
ABC

A listen and look story!

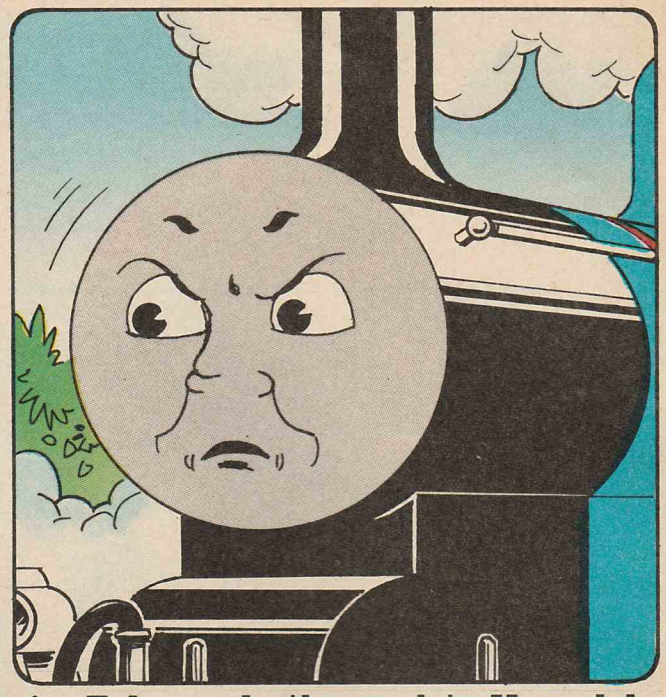


1. Edward enjoyed delivering trucks to the harbour. He passed by the airfield where Harold the Helicopter lived. Often the signals showed red, so he would stop.

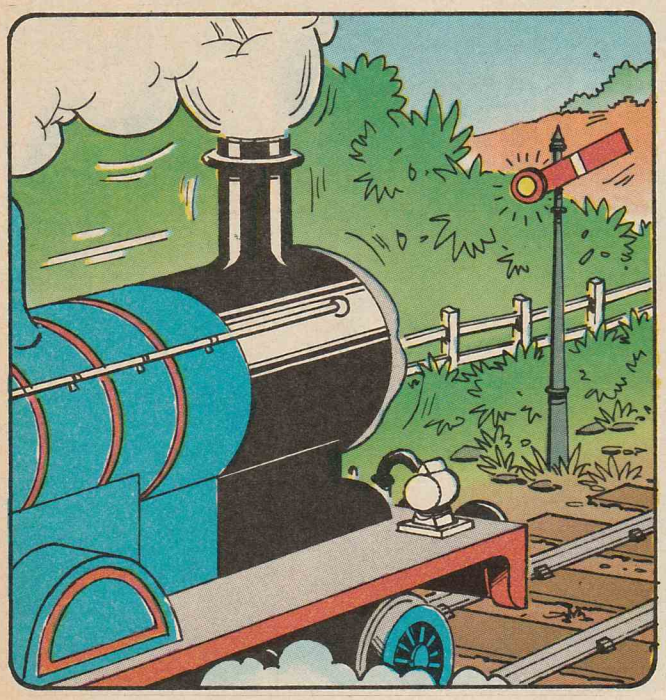
2. This gave him the chance to talk to Harold. "What's it like to fly?" he asked one day. Harold told Edward that flying was the best feeling in the world.



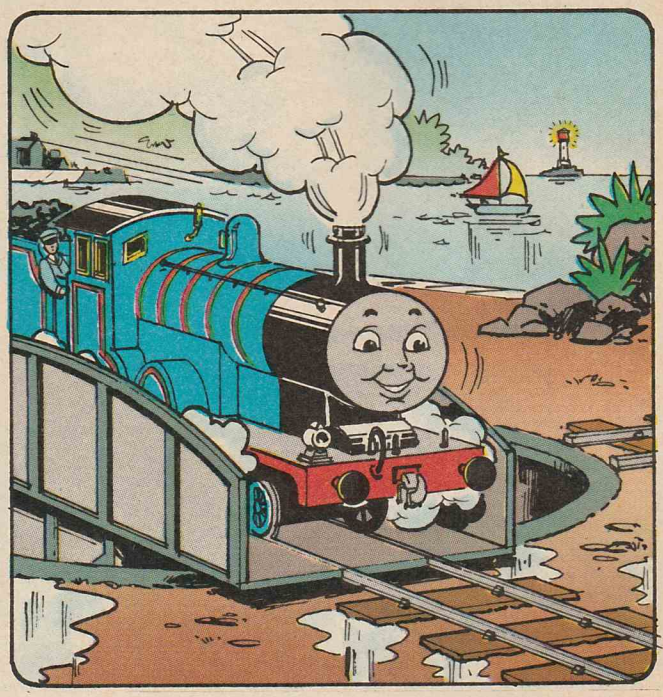
3. "Much better than being stuck on a railway track," he said boastfully. "I can fly wherever I like. Up and down, over country and towns."



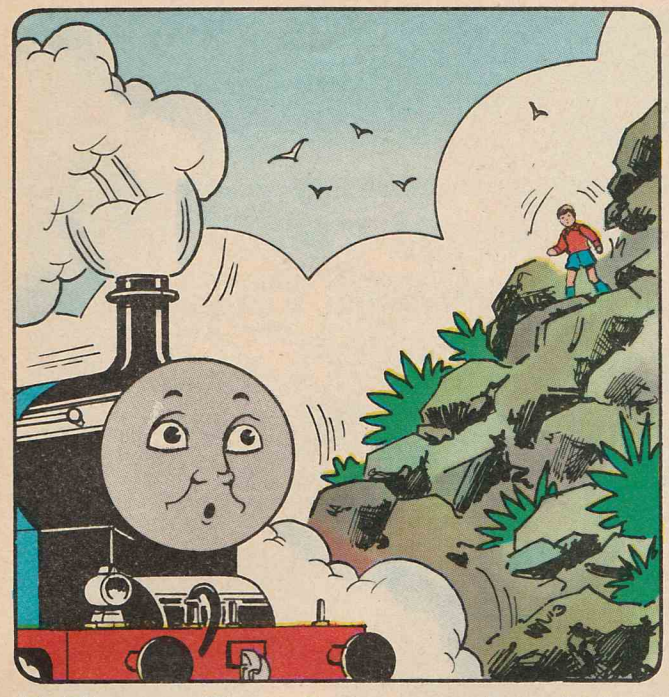
4. Edward thought Harold was boasting that helicopters were better than trains. "Trains can carry many more passengers than helicopters," he retorted.



5. The friendly discussion quickly developed into an argument. Harold flew off, refusing to talk to Edward. "Stupid helicopter," muttered Edward.



6. At the harbour, the trucks were uncoupled to be unloaded. Edward was moved onto the turntable, to be turned around for his return journey

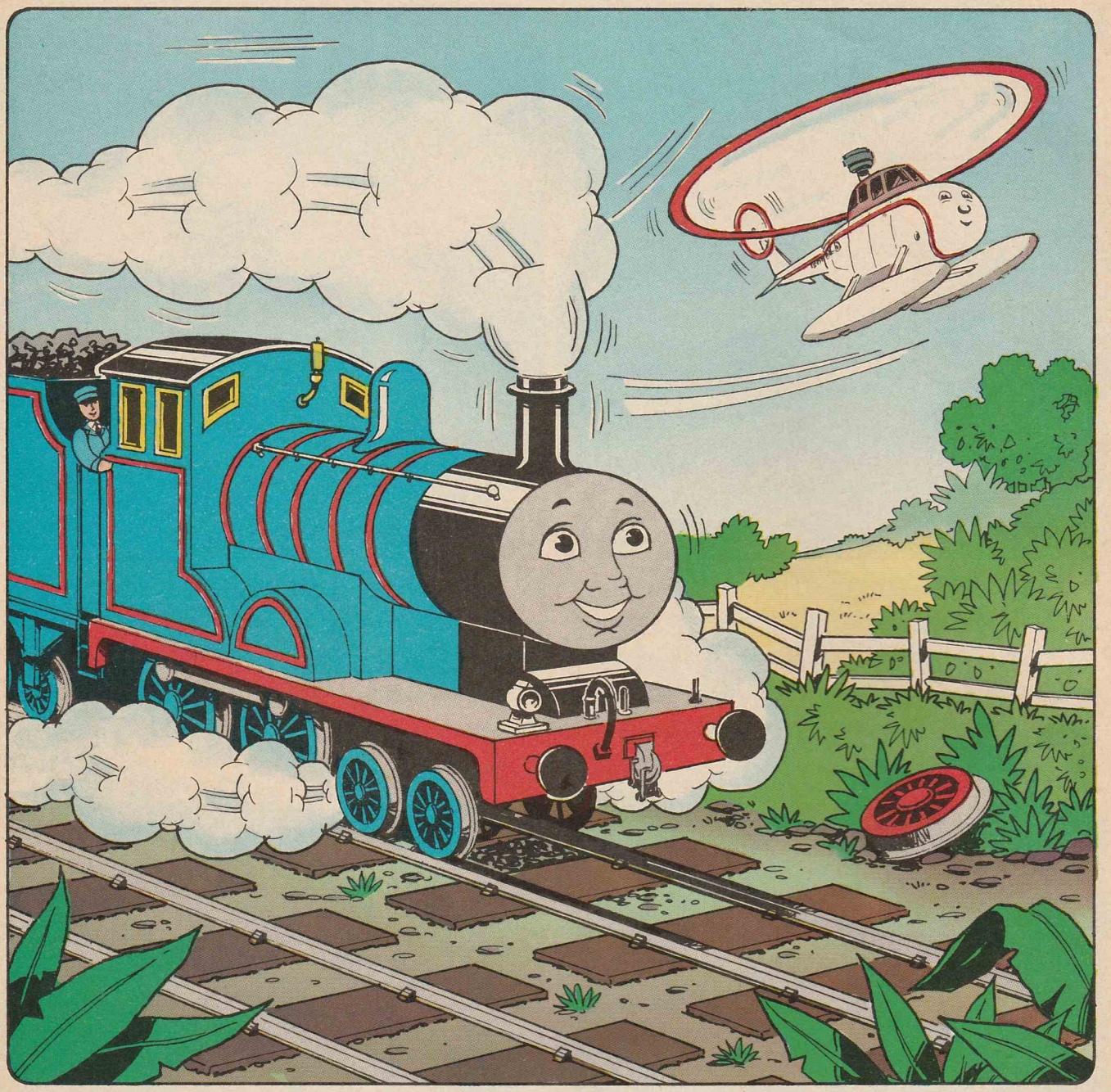


7. It was then he caught sight of a boy playing at the edge of the quarry. "He must have somehow climbed over the fence," thought Edward grimly.

8. He was just about to call out to his driver, when the boy disappeared from sight. "Goodness. He's fallen right over the edge," cried Edward.

9. Edward told his driver, who hurried to the quarry. He came running back. "He's trapped on a ledge," he explained. "Too far down for anyone to reach."

10. "Harold will rescue him," said Edward, already forgetting their argument. Edward's driver ran and phoned the airfield. Harold quickly arrived.



11. A man was carefully winched down by rope to the quarry's ledge. He tied the boy safely to the rope. Then Harold gently lifted them both back up to the top of the quarry. The boy had hurt his arm, but he refused to be flown to hospital in Harold. "I'm terrified of flying," he explained, crying loudly.

12. Harold spoke up. "Why can't he ride on Edward?" he suggested. "Edward passes the hospital on his journey." Everyone agreed that this was a sensible idea. When Edward and Harold met the next day, they laughed at their silly argument. "Trains and helicopters are both good for different tasks," said Edward.

THE END

In our next issue: Thomas gives a lift!

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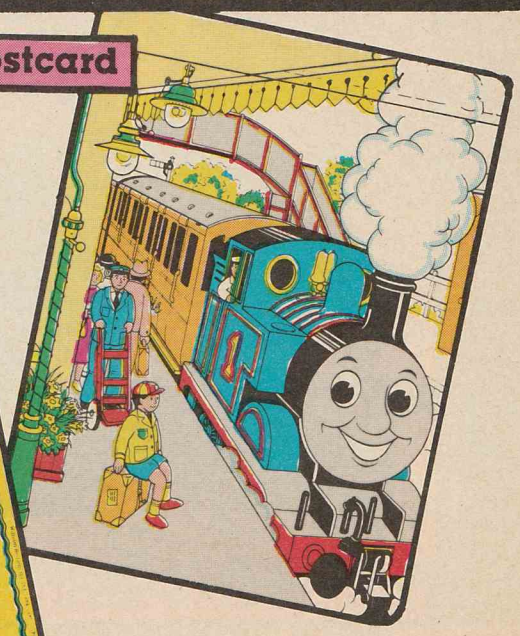

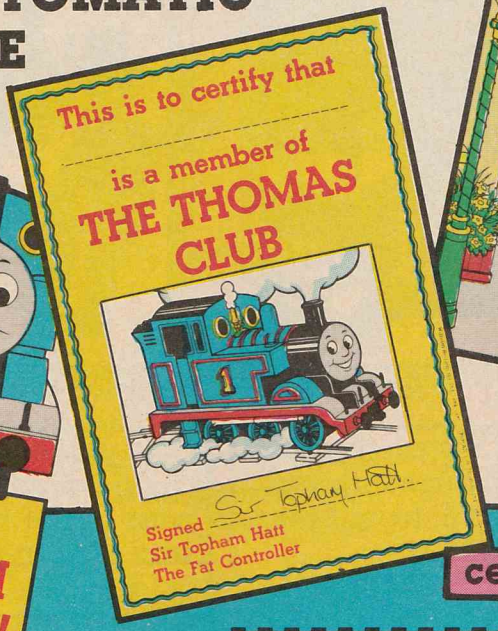

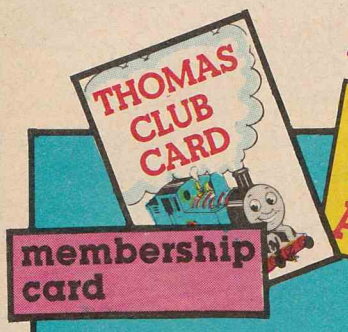

It costs just **£10.40** to be sent every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine** for a year – and this includes postage and packing. You will also receive our very special subscriber's pack (above). Just fill in the form and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for **£10.40** to: *Thomas Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester LE99 0AB*

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.....

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.....

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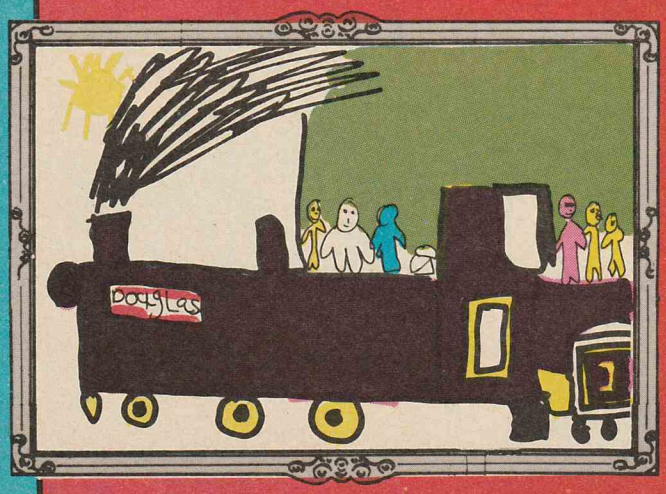
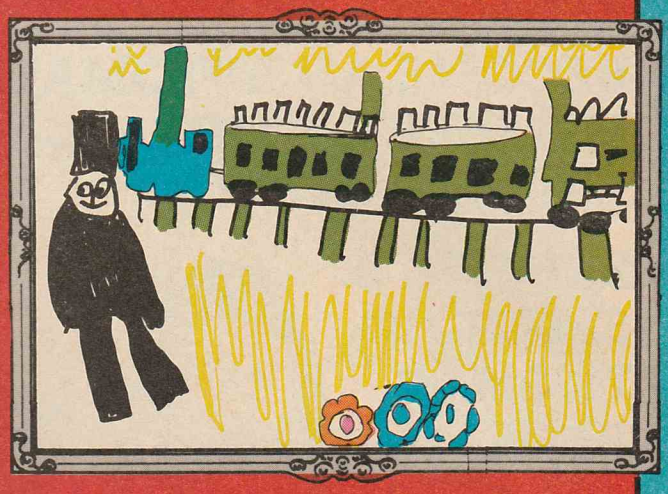
See Thomas, Percy and James's GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACK for details of a £1 DISCOUNT OFFER! In the shop now!

YOUR DRAWINGS
for the Fat Controller

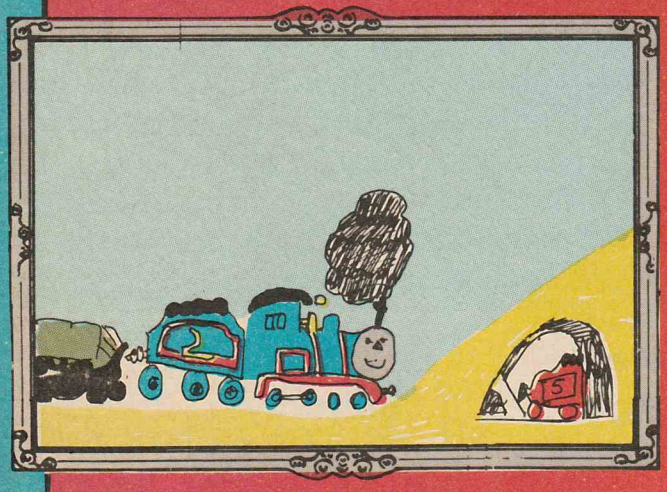
Here are just a few of the many splendid drawings that you have sent in for us. Can you see your picture?



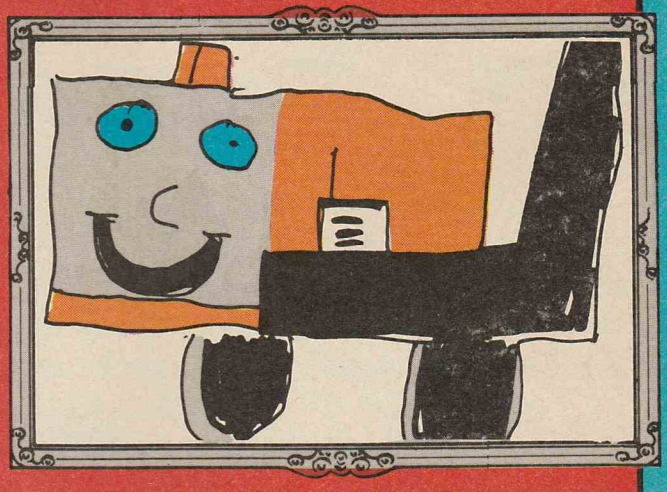
Here is Douglas waiting for his passengers at the station. This splendid drawing was sent in by **David Buxton,** aged 6, from Essex. His membership number is 11832.



Can you see the Fat Controller standing in the field as Thomas pulls his two coaches past in the background? This super picture was sent in by **Ryan Rhodes,** aged 5, from Dudley. His membership number is 1563.



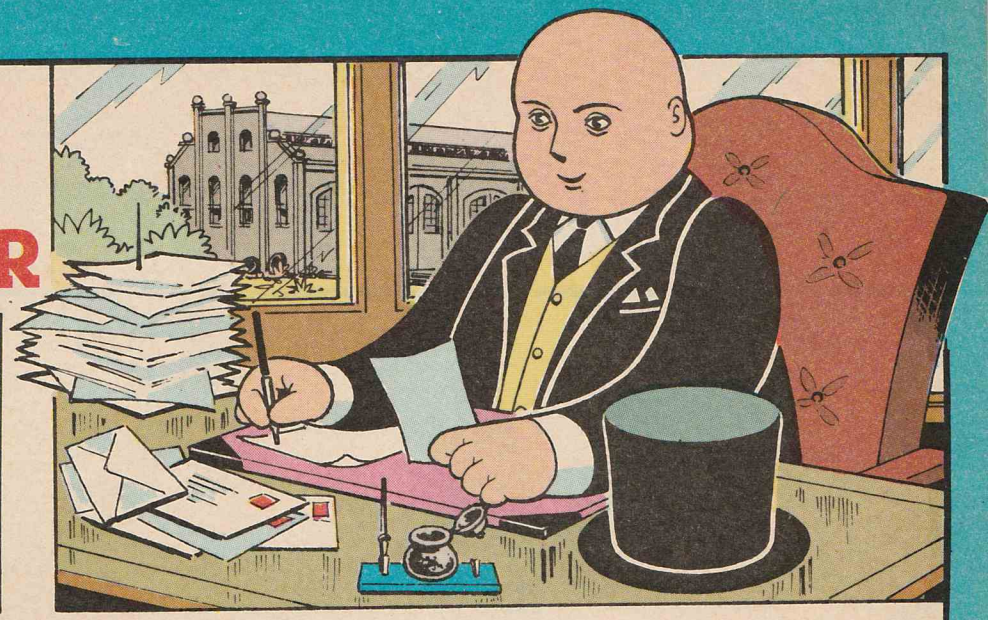
This splendid picture of Edward about to steam up the hill while James is waiting to come out of the tunnel was sent in by **Edward Hawes,** aged 12, from Maidenhead.



This very happy picture of Terence the Tractor was drawn by **Stephen Kilgour,** aged 7, from Darlington.

Thank you all for sending in your pictures – we are sorry that we could not print every one! If you would like to draw a picture for us, please send it to: *The Fat Controller (Pictures Page), The Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

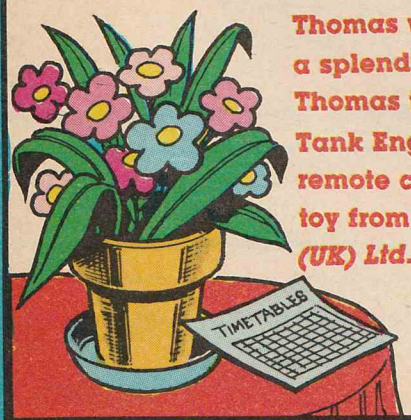
★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
The other day I heard a very loud noise coming from outside. I ran to the window and saw a big helicopter – I thought it was Harold!
Love from **Thomas,**
aged 3.

Upon my soul! *That must have been very exciting indeed. Unfortunately, Harold has been so busy recently that he hasn't left the Island of Sodor – you may have seen one of his many friends instead though!*

★★★★★★★★★



Thomas wins a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine remote control toy from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

NEW BEDROOM!

Dear Far Controller,
We have just moved house and my mummy and daddy have decorated my bedroom full of Thomas the Tank things. I have a duvet, rug, curtains and a lamp. It really looks great!
Love from **Matthew,**

Gracious me! *What a lucky young lad you are – your bedroom must look very splendid indeed! You know . . . I also have a Thomas the Tank Engine lamp which gives me great pleasure too!*

COINCIDENCE!

Dear Fat Controller,
I am your biggest fan because as well as doing a great job on the railway, you look exactly like my uncle Tony!
From **Gareth,** aged 3.
Thank you very much, Gareth! I wonder if your uncle Tony also wears a top hat and a yellow waistcoat too!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go out to:

Graham Reynolds, Gemma Louise Halton, Chris Ward (24052), Andrew Smith, John Cording (26933), Andrew Michael Davy (11211), Jonathon Beedie, Timothy Kent (26070), Julia Pavey (8375), Layren Smurthwaite, Benjamin Pritchard (26845), Vincent Banks (29308), Nicky Read, James Clarke (29932), Richard William Major, Paul Butcher, Wendy Hatch, Peter William Sibilla, Paul Broughton (15111), Marc Sunderland (30318), Elanor Murrell, Daniel Benjamin, Tom Adair, Tom Doherty (27707), Benjamin Guest, Christopher Andrew Macrae, Douglas Tunnock, Daniel Richard Stevenson and Alistair Turnbull (30534).

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot **promise** to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

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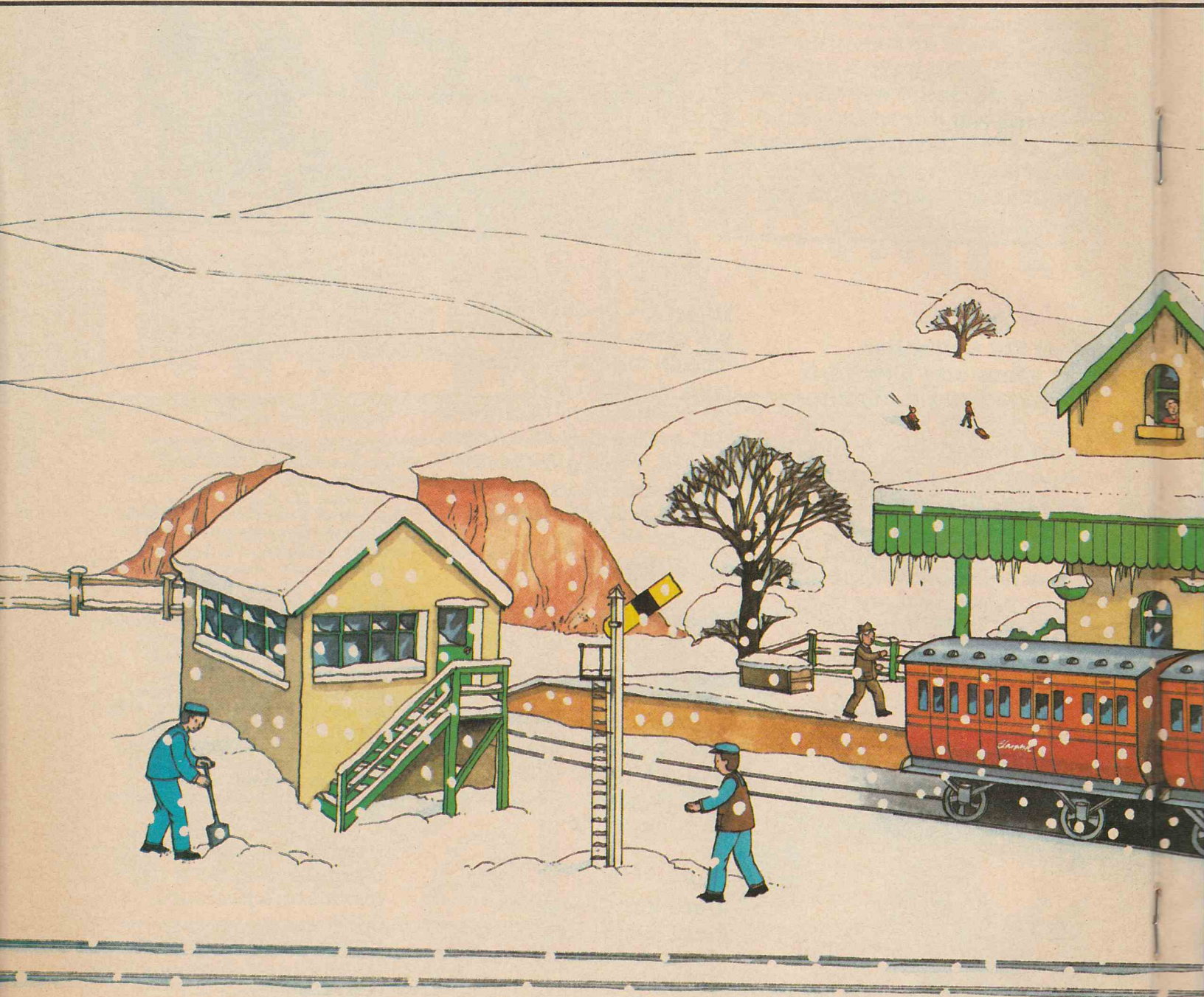


How many people can you see?

Point to the two mailsacks!

Do you know what icicles are made of?

What is coming out of the station house chimney?

Who is goin

What seaso

Is the signa

Are they all

he station!

going through the station?

season is it?

signal up or down?

ey all railway workers?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

Next issue: Past the park!

COLOURING TIME!

Colour in this football team
Then read their story on page fourteen!

JOIN THE DOTS!

Join the dots from a to v
And then from 1 to 33!

A read-aloud story!

THOMAS AND THE FOOTBALL

It was a beautiful sunny day on the Island of Sodor. It was a little cold, but not too cold for children to want to be playing outside. Thomas was riding along his branch line with Annie and Clarabel.

"What a sunny day! What a sunny day!" sang Thomas cheerily as he rolled along.

"Yes, indeed it is! Yes, indeed it is!" answered Annie and Clarabel.

As Thomas rounded the corner he saw some boys and girls playing on a piece of waste ground near the line. They were kicking a football around.

"I don't think they are supposed to be playing there," said Thomas's driver. "That piece of land is supposed to be fenced off! It's too near the line."

"Never mind," said Thomas. "I'm sure that a little game of football wont harm anyone."

The children stopped their game to wave to Thomas as he went singing on his way.

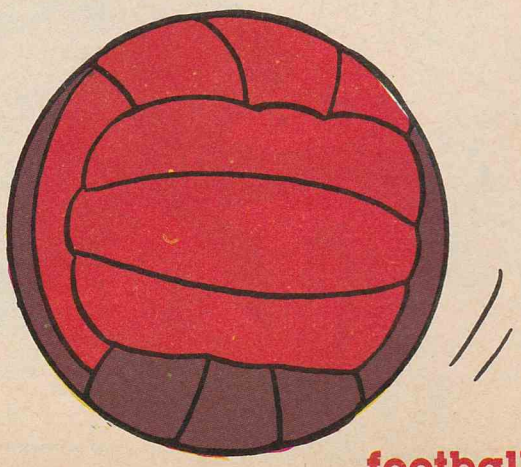
When Thomas reached the end of his branch line, he went on the loop to turn around and come back. It wasn't very long before he was passing the children again.

"They're still there," said Thomas.

"Yes," said his driver. "And I'm still not happy about it."

"I don't see their football anywhere," said Thomas. "They seem to have lost it."

Then Thomas looked



football

ahead of him. There was the football, right in the middle of the line! And there was a little boy running out after it. He hadn't seen Thomas coming!

Thomas's driver slammed on the brakes and Thomas stopped just in time. The little boy just stood there. He was so frightened he couldn't pick up his football

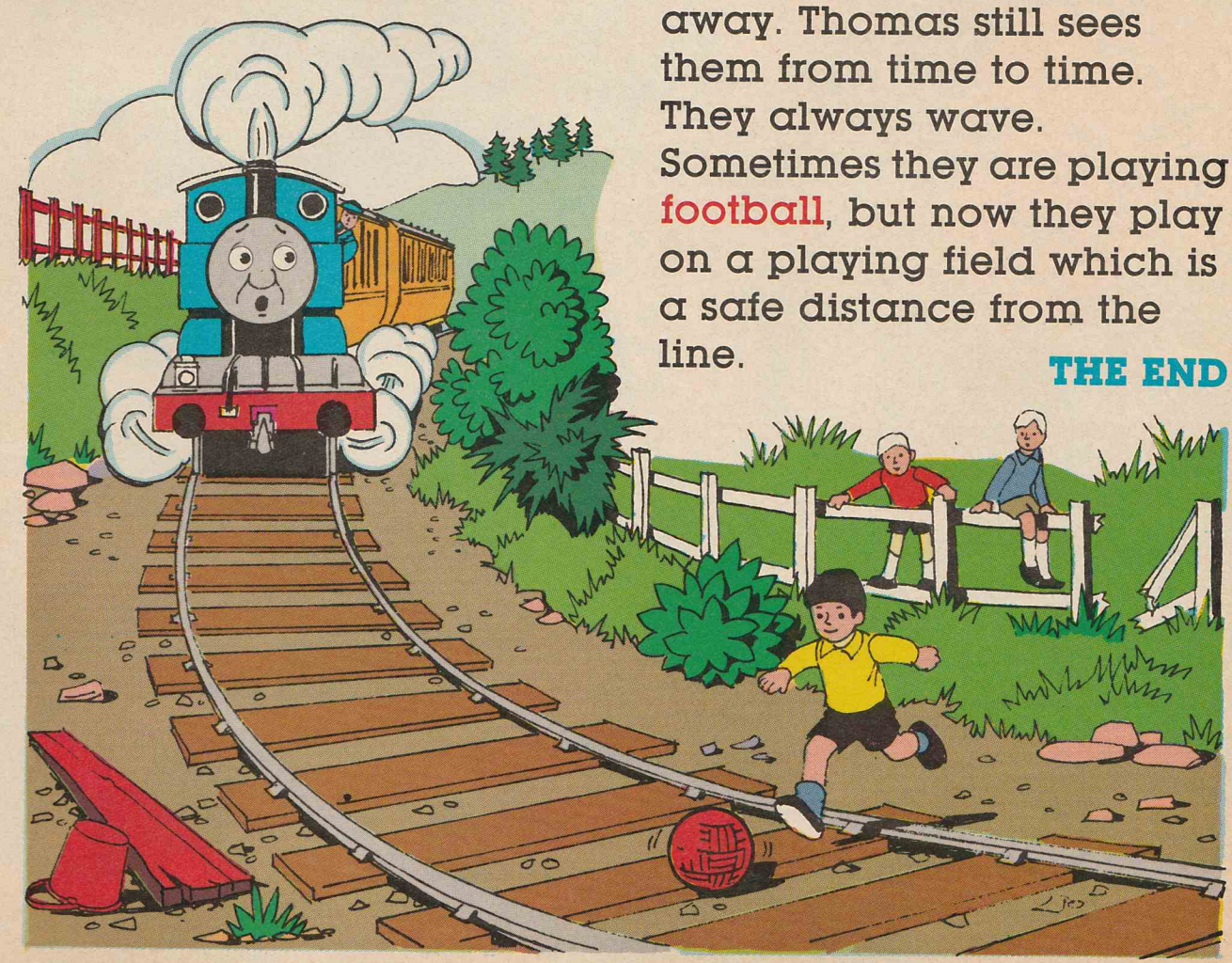
"I don't like to be cross with you children," said Thomas's driver. "But you shouldn't be playing football here! Isn't there a fence around that ground?"

"There was a hole in the fence," one of the boys explained.

"That's no excuse," said Thomas's driver. "Playing so near the line just isn't safe! You should take your football and play somewhere else!"

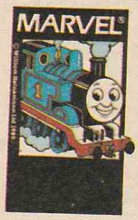
The children knew that Thomas and his driver were right. They took their football and went away. Thomas still sees them from time to time. They always wave. Sometimes they are playing football, but now they play on a playing field which is a safe distance from the line.

THE END



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

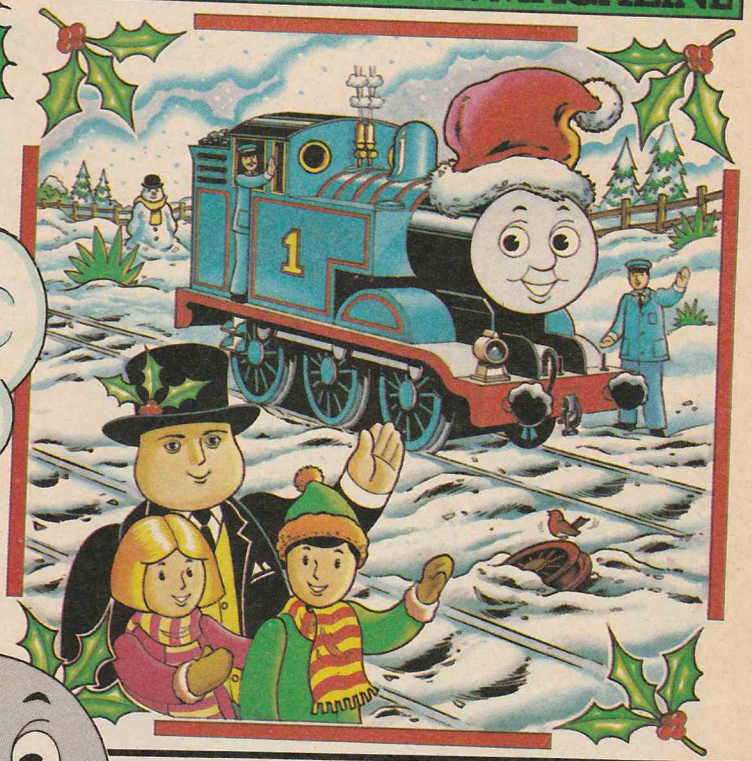
CHRISTMAS POSTER MAGAZINE!

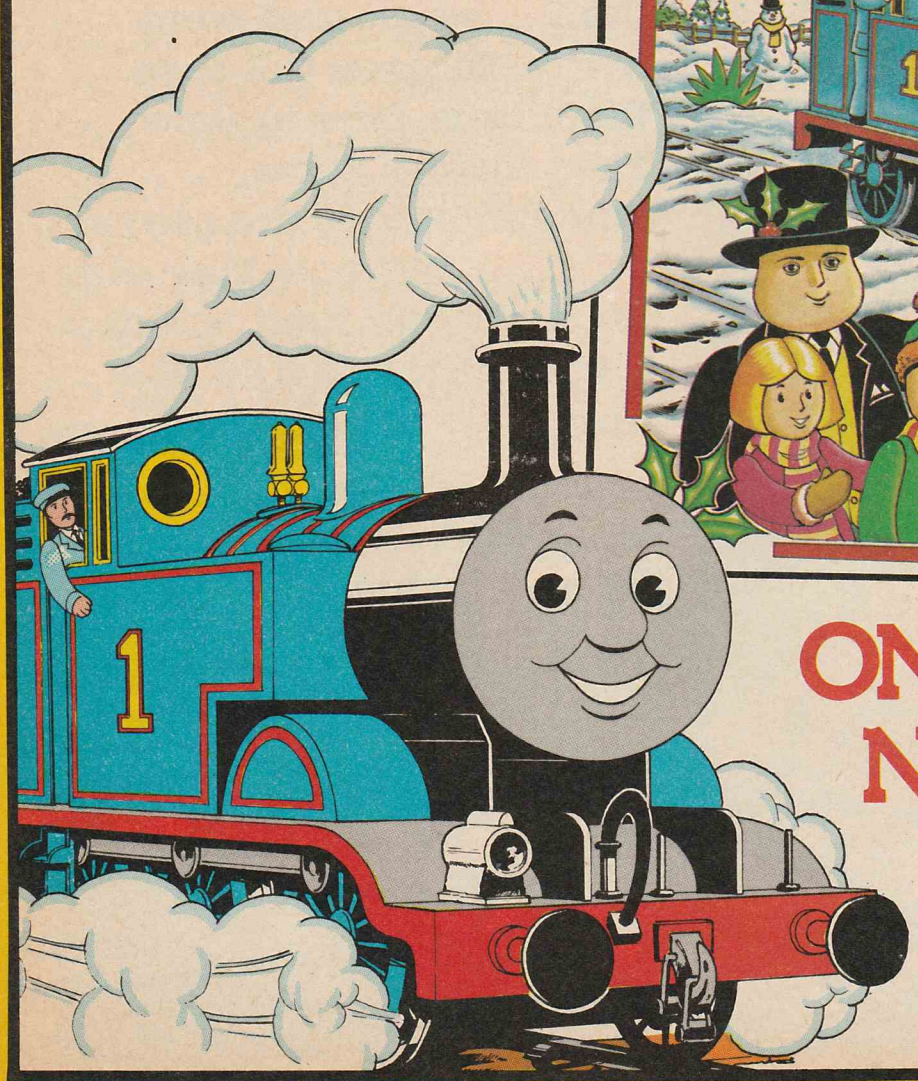


THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

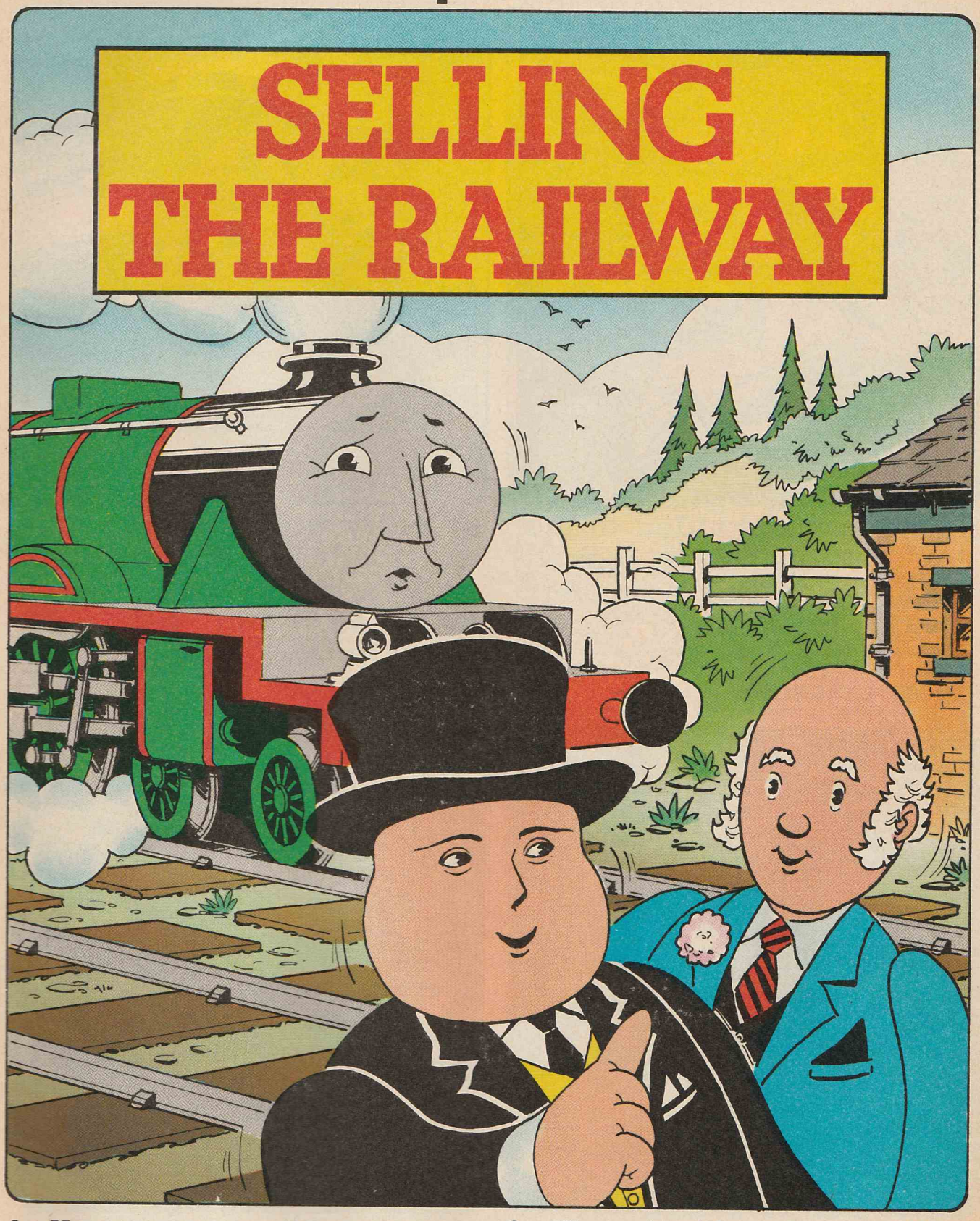
CHRISTMAS POSTER MAGAZINE





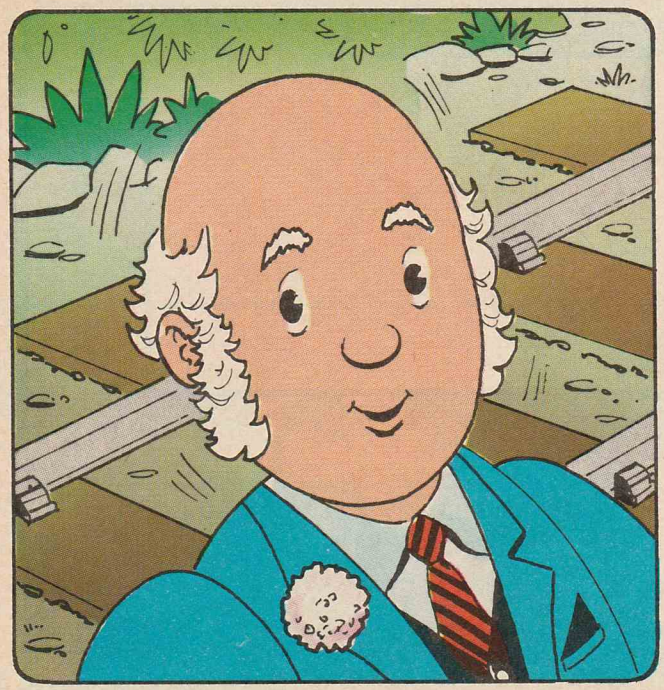
ON SALE NOW!

A listen and look story!

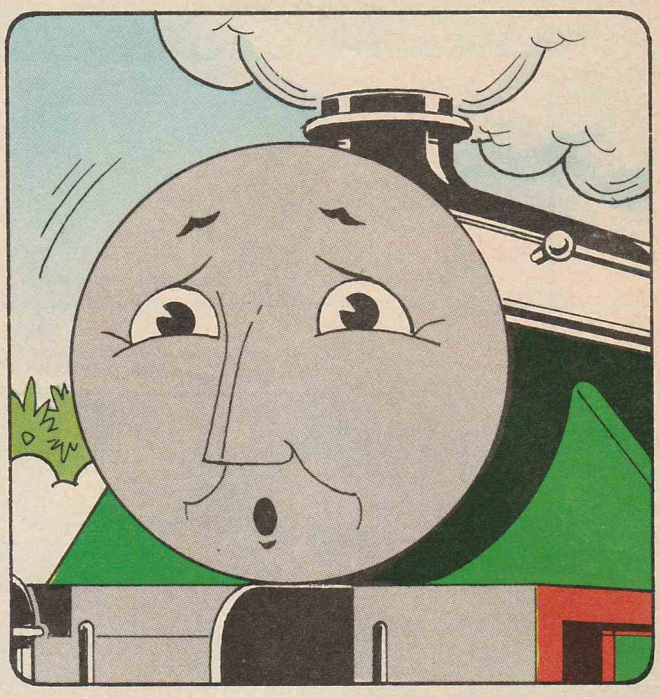


1. Henry was waiting to be coupled to the goods train before his journey to the harbour. The Fat Controller passed by with a distinguished looking gentleman.

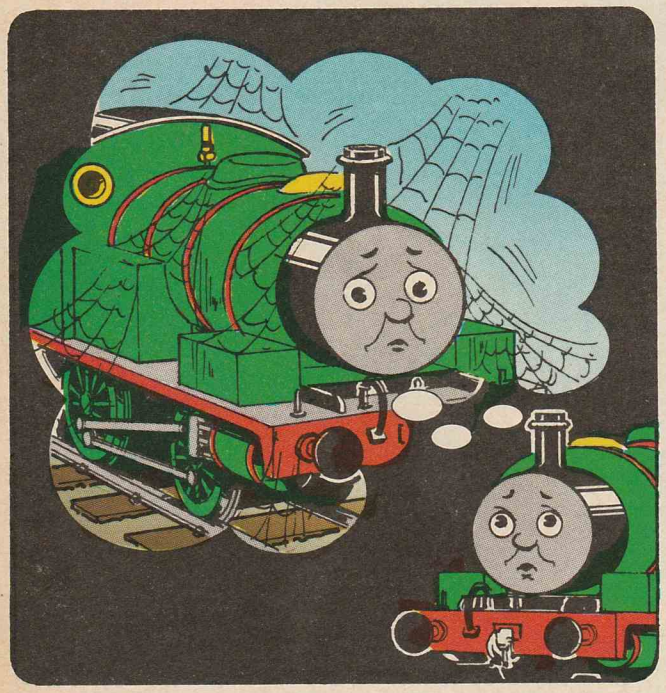
2. "I've decided to sell the railway," Henry overheard the Fat Controller saying. "My engines are getting too old. Why, some of them are almost ancient."



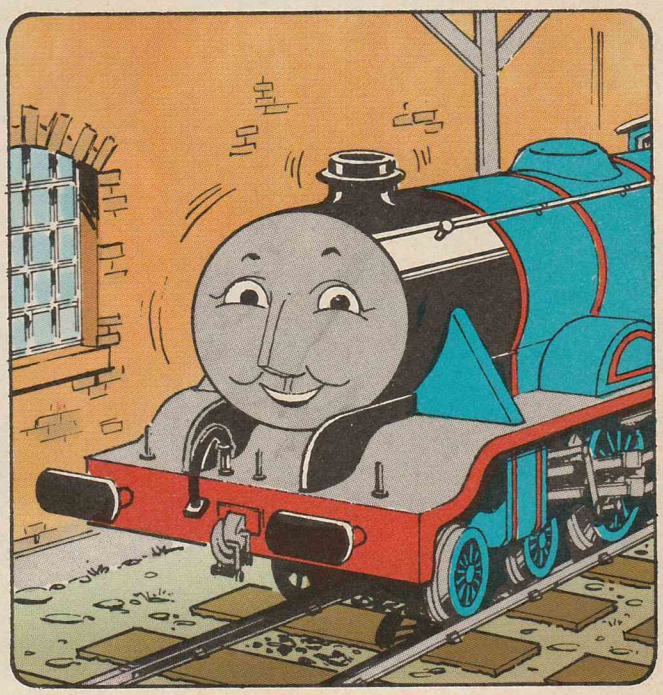
3. The visitor nodded at the Fat Controller. "I've looked them over. They're in very good condition. I'd like to buy them and display them in my museum."



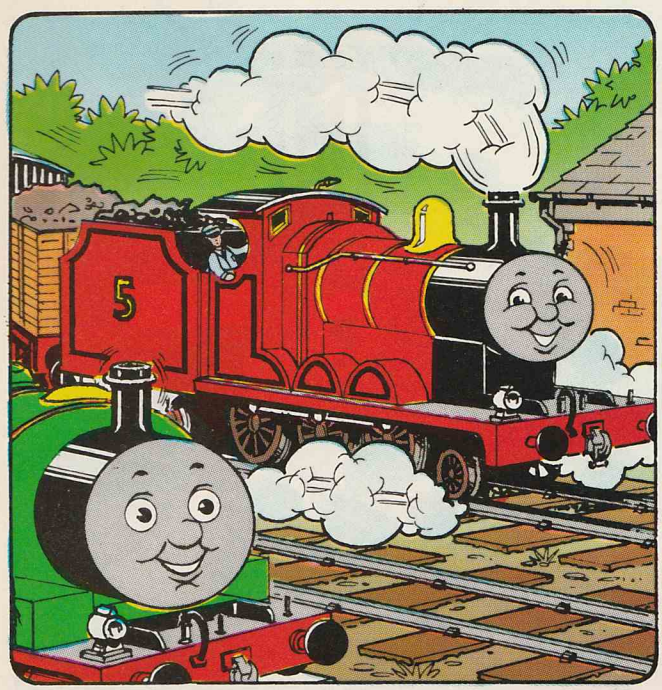
4. Henry was shocked. "Oh, my goodness. The Fat Controller is selling the railway," he cried. "And we're all going to end up in a stuffy museum."



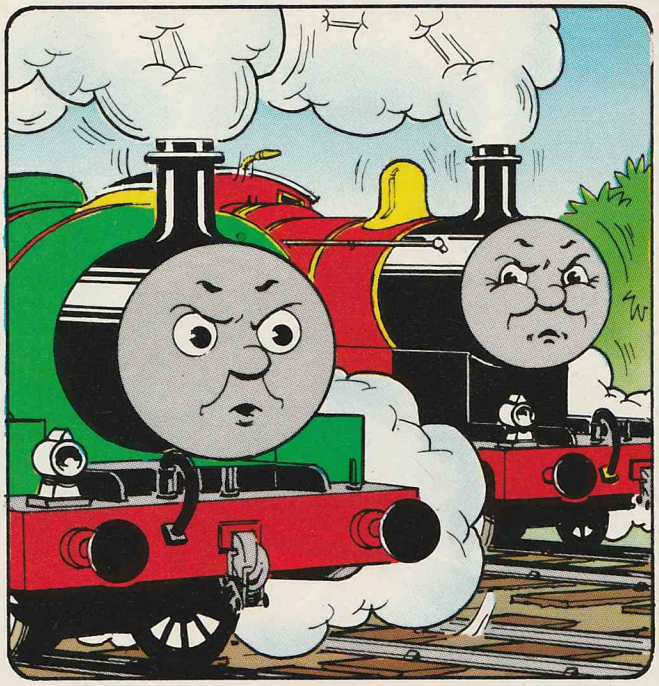
5. That evening, after work, Henry told the other engines what he had overhead. "What are we going to do?" wailed Percy. "I'm too young to be put into a museum."



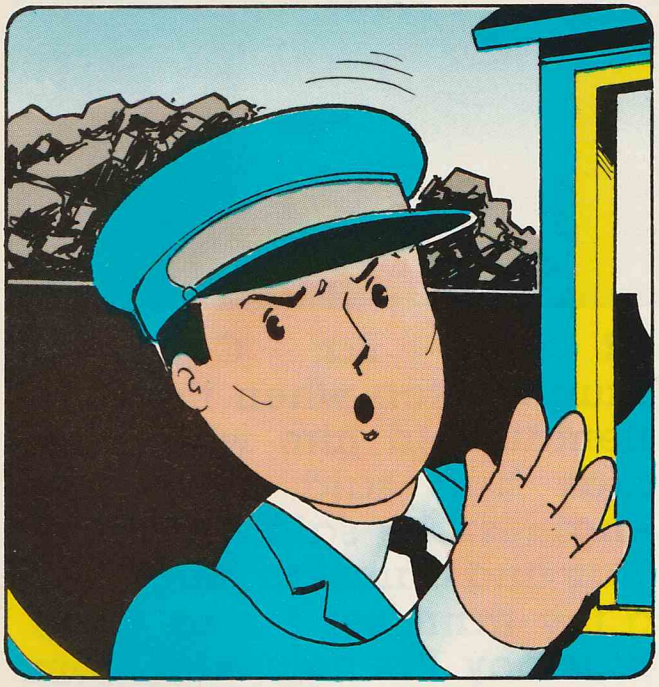
6. Gordon took command. "We'll have to prove to the Fat Controller how useful we are," he said. "That means everyone must work twice as hard."



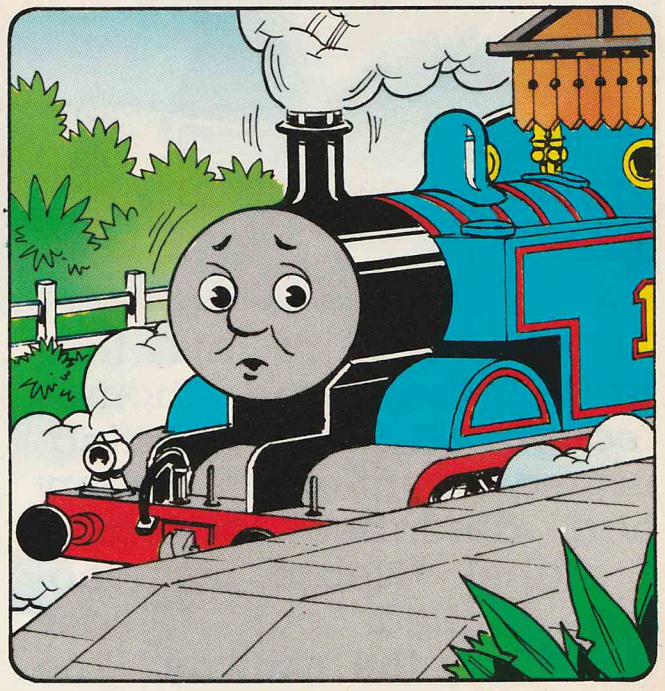
7. The next day, when the goods trains were being coupled to Percy and James for the trip to the quarry, they both insisted on taking them alone.



8. "I don't need James at all. I can pull them all myself," said Percy, "Rubbish," snapped James. "I'm much stronger than you are. I shall take them."



9. Gordon and Henry were arguing over who could carry the most passengers. Their drivers became cross. "Behave, or you won't go out at all," said Gordon's driver.



10. All day, the trains argued with each other. This worried Thomas. "If the Fat Controller hears us arguing, he'll sell us for certain," he thought.

11. On one of his trips around the island, Thomas recognised the distinguished gentleman Henry had described, boarding Clarabel. "Please, sir," Thomas called out. "Please don't buy the railway." The distinguished gentleman laughed when Thomas explained what Henry had overhead.

12. The Fat Controller laughed too when the gentleman told him what Thomas had said. "You silly engines," he said. "The railway and trains I'm selling are a toy train set I had as a little boy. I've no use for them now." He held up a battered old train set for them to see. The engines did feel very foolish indeed.

THE END

In our next issue: Trouble with water!